

I have concerns over the centralization of ownership of the public airwaves that is being proposed by this item on the docket. In a recent response to Radio Airplay criticism, the RIAA and others stated that there were over 3000 new songs played on the radio last year and that there were 355 new artist on various radio playlists around the country. While this is a rather impressive number, it pales when the facts are that more than 30,000 new songs were released on various labels last year and over 1200 new artists are attempting to get airplay on the radio. The fact that only 10% of artists will get airplay in a given year and that playlists are now generated on a coast to coast basis is a warning sign that cannot be ignored. The consolidation of radio and other media will only provide for the success of a limited number of artists, stations and broadcast/journalist and media professionals. At a time when our country needs more diversity and greater work options, this proposal is exactly the opposite of what should occur. The FCC was set up to provide a governing agency to protect the "PUBLIC'S" interest, not the interest of a small group of station owners.

I want rules in place that serve the public, rather than private, interest.

I oppose taking a vote that leads to more media consolidation.

On June 2nd, I urge you to retain the current ownership rules.

Please do not move forward in this matter without truly considering the long term ramifications to diversity in the voices heard on the airwaves. These voices will influence the course of our great nation over time and the diversity that has brought us to the greatness we now enjoy will be filtered and ultimately silenced if the market is controlled by a select few entities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lowell Rice